



Photo/WES KELLER

PHOTO STUDIO OPENS: Photographer Paul George, with scissors, is assisted by daughters Tonya Tavares, right, Chantelle Bradshaw and Tonya Tavares, holding the ribbon, mother Dina Tavares, second from left, his wife Laurie McDonald and nieces Victoria and Adriana as dozens of well wishers and politicians look on at the official opening of the new photography studio at 400 Townline, Unit 6, Orangeville. He described the new studio as "a dream for most of my life." He does family portraits as well as commercial photography.

## YMCA defends survey process

A senior official of the Greater Toronto YMCA has defended the process followed in a survey which led to a conclusion that there is strong support for the introduction of YMCA facilities and services in North Dufferin.

In an e-mailed response to queries from Karren Wallace of Melancthon, Steve Boone, Senior Vice President of Asset Development for the Greater Toronto Y, said the survey's design "is based on universally accepted research methodology that YMCAs and municipalities utilize through third party, independent research professionals."

He said the firm employed, LeisurePlan International Inc. "is nationally recognized and contracted by many YMCAs and municipalities for recre-

ation master plans and community readiness studies."

The methodology used, which involved surveying 428 area residents who responded to a total of 2,500 calls, "is the exact model we have used as a YMCA in studying levels of community readiness that have led to the building of new YMCAs in Markham, Durham and Brampton, all of which are now providing vital, relevant and quality programs and services in those regions."

The number of respondents surveyed and stratification of the "sample" (the number of respondents surveyed) "ensured a statistically valid and representative sample," and the phone numbers were "from a list management company authorized by Bell Canada."

"Each randomly selected telephone number was called at least three times during the survey period in order to complete an interview before discarding the telephone number if there was no answer."

Mr. Boone said the process followed ensured "that respondents were within the age category, that we had gender balance, that they lived within the geographic North Dufferin study area, and that they had time to answer all the questions."

### Design expert on tap for SPCA fundraiser

The Marlin Travel offices at the Orangeville Walmart store will be the scene Sunday afternoon of an unusual fundraiser for the local SPCA.

For a \$30 cash donation, participants will get a 20-minute consultation with home decorator Marg Anquetil, winner of eight design awards.

Those interested should bring fabric swatches, room photos and room dimensions and work with Marg to find out how to make your room a dream room.

To book an appointment, call 519-942-0602 or email [decoratingdenint@rogers.com](mailto:decoratingdenint@rogers.com). All proceeds will go to the Orangeville and District branch of Ontario SPCA.

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## The YMCA process moves forward

We are pleased to have served as facilitator during the quest to bring YMCA programs and services to the region that includes Amaranth, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Shelburne and Southgate.

In this role we:

- Facilitated meetings and site visits
- Provided logistical support to the six municipalities requesting the YMCA's due diligence process
- Kept the community informed of developments, and
- Paid the cost of the recent survey that was conducted as part of the YMCA's research

It was very gratifying to read the positive research results announced by the YMCA. We congratulate the YMCA on these findings and thank it for identifying the needs and views of our community.

The YMCA's process has now moved into a different phase. That phase involves discussions with municipal stakeholders to explore different partnership models. The transition to these more direct and detailed discussions provides a natural point for The Highland Companies to step back from the process.

As we advised the six municipalities on November 18, 2009, we have turned our role as facilitator over to the municipalities and the YMCA to complete the quest.

We thank the municipalities and you, the residents of the region, for your support of the process to date. We wish the municipalities and the YMCA success in their discussions. We will follow their progress with interest, and we hope that the community's support can be rewarded with a positive outcome.



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**Scott Cowen**  
son of David & Diane Cowen of Redickville Graduated with Masters of Science Chemistry from University of Guelph in August 2009.  
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